

**REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

Piqua City Commission met at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Government Complex Commission Chambers located at 201 W. Water Street, Piqua, Ohio.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hinds, Lee, and Vetter were present. A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to excuse Commissioner Grissom. Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion and all approved. The motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 5:31 pm

A motion was made to Mayor Pearson to adjourn to executive session. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion and all approved.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Pearson and Commissioners Hinds, Lee, and Vetter were present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

To prepare for and review negotiations on compensation or other terms and conditions of employment for City personnel

ADJOURNMENT FROM EXECUTIVE SESSION at 6:00 pm

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to adjourn from Executive Session and seconded by Commissioner Vetter. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

REGULAR PIQUA CITY COMMISSION MEETING

Mayor Pearson stated that the meeting date was changed because of a lack of a quorum on Tuesday, May 2, 2023.

CONSENT AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the April 18, 2023, Regular Commission Meeting

A motion was made by Commissioner Hinds to approve the Consent Agenda and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

PRESENTATION – Dan Foley

Dan Foley, Great Miami Riverway Director, showed his support for the Lock 9 project. Mr. Foley said that every community is working hard to develop the riverway in their community. Mr. Foley thanked the commission for supporting Lock 9 park as he has already seen tremendous development like Crooked Handle and other developers. Mr. Foley said that you can ride from Piqua to Fairfield, and he knows of expansions being planned.

ORDINANCE NO. O-4-23 (EMERGENCY) 1st Reading

An Emergency Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. O-18-22 for amendment of appropriations for the City of Piqua, Ohio, for the Year 2023

Introduction: Jennifer Kahle said that due to projects that change they need to get Commission approval for reappropriation. The request is to move funds from property transfers that aren't going to happen to Parks. The request is considered an Emergency to meet deadlines for grants.

Commissioners comments: Commissioner Vetter asked where the money was coming from. Jennifer Kahle responded that it was coming from the general fund. Commissioner Vetter asked if we had the funds. Jennifer Kahle said that is correct. Commissioner Vetter asked for a review of the funds.

Comments:

Debbie Stein asked why it was an emergency. Paul Oberdorfer responded that it is an emergency to meet the obligation of grant funding. Debbie Stein asked what the fund balance was, and Jennifer Kahle said it is 6.7 million. Ms. Stein asked about the swimming pool and Hance pavilion. Commissioner Lee and Paul both responded that these items are prioritized on the CIP.

Lorna Swisher said there could be even more new investment downtown with Lock 9. Lorna pointed out the significant investments already made because they believed Lock 9 part was going to be developed.

Commissioner Hinds stated that we have been dreaming about this since 2016 when she came on Commission. Many investors are ready to go if Lock 9 goes forward. She said we need to brand ourselves and it is so important to move the city forward. She is passionate and excited to move forward.

Commissioner Lee talked about his apprehension at first because he didn't look at the big picture. He would like to see it come to fruition, so Piqua becomes a destination place.

Mayor Pearson said this is the future of Piqua and we just must move forward.

Jim Brookhart expressed his support for Crooked Handle and said it is time for the City of Piqua to honor their commitment to Crooked Handle.

Kathy Sherman said it's amazing to go into Crooked Handle and see all the visitors from outside the city visiting already. She asked the Commission to not let the grant money go away. Kathy said the downtown business buildings are 90% full but with the completion of Lock 9 they will be totally full.

Jeff Lange expressed his thanks to Crooked Handle for lightening the mood in Piqua and providing a place to go. He asked the commissioners to finish it off with Lock 9. What a beautiful view it is to be by the river.

Action taken: Frank Patrizio spoke up and said that all 4 commissioners present would have to vote in favor of waiving the 3-reading rule.

Commissioner Hinds made a motion to waive the 3-reading rule and Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. Mayor Pearson, Commissioners Lee, and Commissioner Hinds vote in favor. Commissioner Vetter voted no. This will be the 1st reading.

RESOLUTION NO. R-63-23

A resolution of appreciation for the public service of Thomas M. Steiner as a City employee

Introduction: Mayor Pearson read the Resolution.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee said he worked with Deputy Chief Steiner, and he is a class act. Commissioner Lee said you won't find a better patrolman and he's a great Deputy Chief.

Public Comment: None

A motion was made by Commissioner Vetter to approve the resolution and Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-64-23

A resolution awarding a construction manager as constructor contract to ATCS, INC., for Lock 9 Park Improvements

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to Table R-64-23 and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-65-23

A resolution to adopt a city facility honorary naming policy.

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing discussed the naming policy that the commission requested. Chris noted that the naming policy went before the planning commission, they held a public hearing, and approved the policy. Chris explained the procedure and that the city commission would have the final say. Mr. Schmiesing said this policy has been needed for a long time.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee said the Diversity Committee recommended a name for the new bridge but there was no formal naming policy in place.

Commissioner Vetter asked how long discussion has been going on regarding the policy because he just saw it two hours earlier. Chris Schmiesing said they've been in discussions for 3 months and it did go before the planning commission and a public hearing.

Action taken: Commissioner Vetter made a motion to table the Resolution. There was no second to his motion and the discussion continued.

Mayor Pearson asked Chris Schmiesing to go over the process again.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve the resolution and Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion. Mayor Pearson, Commissioners Hinds and Lee approved the motion. Commissioner Vetter voted against the ordinance. The motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. R-66-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Pavement Technology, Inc. for a portion of the 2023 Pavement Preservation Program

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing discussed the pavement program. For streets that have been paved in the last few years, a rejuvenator will be applied. The rejuvenator extends the life of the pavement. There are a few options as this is just one part of the program. A map of the streets affected was displayed. Chris said that some alleys will be paved and in addition to paving signs will be replaced and trees trimmed. The neighborhoods will be restored.

Commissioners Comments: Commissioner Lee asked if the signs will be the same size as they are now, and Chris Schmiesing gave the dimensions.

Public Comment:

Debbie Stein asked Chris Schmiesing if he had a list of the streets because she was not able to read the map. Chris named off some of the streets and pointed Ms. Stein to the link on the website that opens the map.

Action Taken: A motion was made by Mayor Pearson to approve the resolution and Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION NO. R-67-23

A resolution authorizing a purchase order to Strawser Construction Inc. for a portion of the 2023 Pavement Preservation Program

Introduction: Chris Schmiesing explained that this portion of the program will consist of streets being crack sealed, micro surfaced, or cape sealed. The project will also include the placement of all new paint pavement markings on the streets worked on. Curb improvements will be made to comply with ADA. Chris Schmiesing went over the costs involved.

Action taken: A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to approve the resolution and Commissioner Vetter seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

MOTION FOR SPECIAL MEETING:

Commissioner Hinds asked Mayor Pearson if she could make a motion. Commissioner Hinds said that she is passionate about the Lock 9 project, and she would like to make a motion to hold a meeting Monday, May 8. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion.

Frank Patrizio advised the Commissioners that the motion must state that they are requesting a "Special Meeting" and they must state the reason.

Commissioner Hinds made a motion to hold a special meeting on Monday, May 8 to have a reading on O-4-23 and to discuss R-64-23. Commissioner Lee seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Andrew Huelskamp and Jeremy Sullenberger talked about how they got to the point of being chosen as the construction firm for the Lock 9 project. They also discussed obtaining the building across the street from Lock 9 park. Mr. Huelskamp said the property has zero appeal until the park project goes forward. He stated that if the commission votes to move forward with the Lock 9 park improvements, they will make more investment in this city. If the City commits, you'll see an expedient return.

Lorna Swisher announced events happening downtown such as the Taste of the Arts, May 12 from 5-8. A band from Cincinnati will be playing and there will be lots of food and fun. Also mentioned was the Farmers Market starting next week.

Jeff Lange thanked the city for removing the low dam. Jeff stated it was a death trap and it's going to be safer. Mr. Lange also wanted to applaud the city for putting together a good response to ODNR regarding the hydraulic canal.

Kathy Sherman said that Andrew and Jeremy took a risk. Crooked Handle took a risk and invested more than 2 million. We (the city) need to take a risk.

Debbie Stein would like to go on record saying that the two guys that bought the building across the street from Lock 9 park were chosen as the contractors for the Lock 9 project. She asked if anyone sees a conflict of interest? Debbie Stein said it doesn't sound or look good. Paul Oberdorfer said there were two formal bids made and both were vetted by a committee. Mr. Oberdorfer said he finds it offensive that she would make an accusation. Debbie said it is not meant to be offensive but it's how it's going to be seen. Frank Patrizio said having a third-party, who is also a developer, bid on a project, does not create a conflict.

Andrew Huelskamp said he wanted to respond to the last public comment. He said they went through the ORC guidelines. Andrew pointed out that he thought the goal of the commission was to hire locals. Commissioner Hinds agreed that hiring local benefits all of us and knows of a downtown that thrives because all the businesses are owned by locals.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Paul Oberdorfer pointed out the artwork on the wall and said it was a result of the strategic plan meeting that took place on Saturday. The consultant told him that is rare to see the governing body have the same vision. It was a great session. We'll have a roadmap to tie the budget to what the citizens want.

Paul answered questions on a FOIA provided to him earlier. He also made a statement that the city doesn't spend frivolously.

COMMISSIONERS COMMENTS

Commissioner Lee thanked everyone that spoke and appreciated all the comments. We are transparent. He thanked the people who invested in our city. We want Piqua to be a destination place. We want

people who live here to appreciate their city. We're going to do what we have to do get it done. He cautioned people to watch out for bikes in the nice weather. Commissioner Lee announced the Top 100 banquet and graduation that is coming up.

Commissioner Vetter had the privilege of talking to Chris Schmiesing and Taylor Bowsher about a 1st time home buyers project in the works. Juneteenth was moved to the third Thursday. Commissioner Vetter mentioned that he saw Isaiah's place is now open and that is a positive thing. Feels like the city needs to look into feral cats. The Strategic Plan was very good and by far the best he's been involved in.

Mayor Pearson thanked everyone for coming and appreciated the comments. It's a great thing for our community.

Commissioner Hinds was grateful to be a part of the Strategic Plan. There was a lot of good energy, and it is a beautiful visual. She mentioned all the upcoming events: Bike Month, Cinco de Mayo and more. She encouraged people to get out.

ADJOURNMENT at 7:18 p.m.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee to adjourn, and Commissioner Hinds seconded the motion. All approved and the motion was carried unanimously.